



Millenium Aviation Conference FIRST Rate

The 16th annual Montana Aviation Conference was held March 2-4, 2000 at the Holiday Inn Grand Montana at Billings. The conference had record attendance with close to 700 participants gathering to participate and enjoy an exciting program. Gorgeous spring weather added to the overall enthusiasm at the Holiday Inn.

The exhibit hall opened Thursday morning with more than 60 companies displaying their products and services. These same companies donated items worth thousands of dollars that were given away throughout the conference. Many other generous sponsors contribute to the conference making it possible to deliver a top-notch aviation event.

The trade center was bordered with various items on static display. A helicopter, glider, aircraft engines and homebuilt aircraft in various stages of development added to the overall ambience of the meal functions at the conference.

Following welcoming remarks by local and state officials, the kick-off luncheon on Thursday featured Brigadier General R. Stephen Ritchie. General Ritchie, the last American ace, gave a very uplifting, inspiring presentation and shared some of his overwhelming experiences while serving with the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. General Ritchie left all luncheon attendees feeling "Proud to be an American".

Thursday evening Dr. Jerry Cockrell, Montana's own aviation humorist and psychologist was featured in an open session. Dr. Cockrell spoke to a standing room only crowd and entertained with his "southern" charm and impeccable delivery! Regardless of how hard you laugh, there are always important aviation safety messages entwined in Dr. Cockrell's presentation.

Many interesting concurrent sessions were held over the three days of the conference. A diverse group of speakers from around the country and Canada offer their time and talent to share, educate and entertain conference goers.

Montana's aviation organizations conducted business and Board meetings with many electing new officers for the year 2000. The Montana Aeronautics Board held a meeting and an informal question and answer session. The Aviation Organizations of Montana, the umbrella organization that oversees the conference met Saturday afternoon and accepted letters of intent for communities interested in hosting the 2002 conference.

Aerial applicators participated in an annual recertification session while aviation mechanics were provided with 14 hours of educational instruction to pick and choose from in order to obtain the 8 hours required for IA renewal.

Phil Boyer, AOPA President gave a tremendous presentation at lunch on Saturday. In a letter received from Mr. Boyer following the conference he was "very impressed with the enthusiasm and pilot turnout, considering

the population size of the state...general aviation is alive and well in Montana."

Lieutenant Governor Judy Martz welcomed participants to the Saturday evening banquet. The long-awaited mystery speaker was revealed and none other than...THE PRESIDENT, Damian Mason was featured. The Clinton impersonator flanked by two 'Secret Service agents' outfitted with sunglasses, ear mikes and grim faces, Mason spent 45 minutes confiding the high and low points of time in the White House. Lt. Governor Judy Martz politely denied "The Presidents" offer to assist as she continues down the campaign trail!

Many persons and events contributed to the success of the 16th annual Montana Aviation Conference. A special thank you to all of those who participated in what many consider—the best aviation happening in the northwest!



The Billings Flying Mustangs, a local remote control aircraft organization displayed several RC aircraft in the hotel lobby. The RC club also raffled off a remote controlled aircraft to a lucky winner Saturday evening. Thanks to the Flying Mustang members for their participation and awesome display.

Administrator's Column

THANK YOU: I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Aeronautics Division Staff and the Billings volunteer aviation conference committee for all of their hard work in putting on a very successful aviation conference. I would be remiss not to also recognize and thank the many contributors, exhibitors, unpaid speakers, and yes, all of you who attended. What a great way to start out the new millenium.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION FINALLY

PASSED: The U.S. Senate and House Conference Committee finally negotiated a three year, \$40 billion FAA authorization agreement on SB82 and HR1000 (Air 21). Representative Bud Shuster (R-PA) who authored Air 21 had to give up some key provisions in his bill in order to get the Conference Committee Senators to budge. Air 21 was by far the best bill and received strong and widespread support from the aviation industry. The Senate bill (SB-82) was authored by Senator John McCain (R-AZ) and according to Secretary of Transportation, Rodney Slater, contains 95% of the provisions supported by the Clinton Administration. Shuster had to give up his provision to take the Aviation Users Trust Fund out of the Unified Budget and a guaranteed General Fund contribution for the FAA operations which were strongly opposed to by the Conference Committee Senators and the Clinton Administration. Historically, the General Fund has paid about 30% of the FAA operations budget. Shuster was however, successful in negotiating a deal that essentially will require a General Fund contribution since the Aviation Trust Fund taxes and interest in a given year will not cover the entire FAA budget. The bill does require that all future tax receipts plus interest be spent on aviation as intended. It does not however address the uncommitted balance now in the trust fund which is in excess of about \$7 billion. The bill allows an increase of \$1.50 passenger facility charge (PFC) for air carrier airports. The PFC is currently \$3.00. Overall the new bill will increase FAA funding levels so we should see much more Airport Improvement Program (AIP) money available for Montana airports over the next three years.

GENERAL AVIATION SAFETY

BEST EVER: According to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), General Aviation (GA) pilots, including FAA Part 135 on-demand air taxi operators posted the best safety record in history. Last year there were 1,908 accidents which included 342 fatal ac-

cidents that claimed 628 lives compared with 1,909 accidents including 365 fatal accidents claiming 623 lives the previous year. Because of the increase in flying hours to over 27 million hours flown, NTSB said the GA accident rates were the lowest on record showing 7.05 accidents per 100,000 flight hours and 1.26 fatal accidents per 100,000 hours. This betters the 1998 figures of 7.12 total accidents per 100,000 hours and 1.36 fatal accidents. The Part 135 on-demand air taxi operators were involved in 76 accidents in 1999 which included 12 accidents with 38 fatalities. This compares with 1998 figures of 77 accidents including 18 accidents which claimed a total of 48 lives. Again the rate showed a marked improvement of 2.71 air taxi accidents per 100,000 flight hours which is the first time the rate dropped below 3 per 100,000 hours flown. The fatal accident rate dropped from 0.71 in 1998 to 0.43 per 100,000 hours flown last year. On-demand air taxi operators flew 2.8 million hours last year compared with 2.53 million hours in 1998. This is the highest number of hours flown by air taxi operators since 1989 when they logged over three million hours.

ADMINISTRATION BUDGET & CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE REPORT DENOUNCED:

The National Air Transportation Association (NATA) president Jim Coyne voiced deep concern about a recent Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report that highlights how the FAA could generate additional revenues through "USER FEES". Such fees include charges for air traffic control services for commercial air carriers, air taxis and corporate aircraft, as well as licensing pilots and registering aircraft. Coyne stated "I am amazed that the CBO has once again proposed a repeatedly rejected idea. Instead of evaluating how to eliminate some of the unproductive programs that currently exist in the federal government, CBO instead wastes time and tax payer dollars on a study to see how they can raise additional revenue to pay for programs." "Implementing user fees threatens to eliminate the private and recreational flying in this country and pose yet another obstacle in the aviation industry's crusade to generate public interest in becoming a pilot. And with an evergrowing national pilot shortage, I think it is safe to say that this user fee would only compound the problem." Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) president Phil Boyer blasted the Clinton Administration's FAA budget proposal for FY 2001 in testimony before the House Aviation



Montana and the Sky
Department of Transportation
Marc Racicot, Governor
Marv Dye, Director

Official monthly publication of the
Aeronautics Division
Telephone - 406-444-2506
Fax - 406-444-2519
P.O. Box 5178
Helena, MT 59604

<http://www.mdt.state.mt.us/aeronautics/>

Michael D. Ferguson
Administrator

Aeronautics Board

Ron Mercer, Chairman
Byron Bayers, Member
Fred Booth, Member
Craig Denney, Member
JoAnn Eisenzimer, Member
Douglas Freeman, Member
Will Metz, Member
Bob Palmersheim, Member
John Rabenberg, Member

Montana and the Sky is published
monthly in the interest of aviation in the
State of Montana.

Third Class postage paid at Helena,
Montana 59604

Subscription: \$5 per year
Editor: Debbie Alke
Editorial Assitance:
Patty Kautz

continued page 8

Poly-Fiber Seminar

Come join us for a Poly-fiber seminar at the Dillon Airport, May 6-7, 2000. This is your chance to take advantage of a true hands on workshop. You will learn how to cover an airplane step by step. This workshop will teach you the how to's, from picking the right materials, prepping, cutting the fabric, gluing, shrinking, applying tapes, rib stitching, through the final painting of color.

To register for this event please call or fax us so we can keep a spot open for you. There will be only 40 slots available. The Guest House motel will have special rates and lunch will be provided both days.

You will be pleased to know that this seminar will be presented by Poly-fiber factory personnel. Mr. Jon Goldenbaum, owner of Poly-Fiber, will be here in person to answer questions and teach you the process.

The price will be \$225. Send half at the time of registration and the remainder at the start of the class. Upon receipt of your deposit we will send a class schedule and confirmation.

Jim's Poly-Fiber Montana
535 North Montana
Dillon, MT 59725
(406)683-9302 – office
(406)683-4174 – home
(406)683-9299 - fax

Jack Wilson Passes On

Jack Wilson passed away on February 27 at his winter home in Corpus Christi, TX. He was active in the Boy Scouts, attaining his Eagle Scout Badge and attending the very first ever Boy Scout Jamboree in Washington DC. At the age of 18 he enlisted in the US Army Air Corps and piloted bombers and fighter planes. He flew numerous missions over Burma during WWO and Korea during the Korean Conflict. He retired from the USAF as a Lieutenant Colonel from Malmstrom Air Force Base. He continued flying with the Montana Aeronautics Division flying searches for downed aircraft, fly-ins and transporting the governor, and other officials. He also taught seminars for flight instructors.

He belonged to the Order of Daedalian and was a member of the First Christian Church in Great Falls.

He is survived by his daughters and son-in-law, Sue Wilson of Hall, Jackie and John Lowry of Ontario, NY; six grandchildren; nine great grandchildren and several cousins in OK.

Jack's journey through his life was full and happy. He loved flying, baseball, golfing and being with his friends and family. His remains have been cremated in TX. Memorial services will be conducted in Helena at a later date when his family can all be together to celebrate his life.

The Montana Fly-in Spray Check

The Association of Montana Aerial Applicators will conduct a fly-in spray check on April 12 and 13 and if needed the 14 and/or 15 at the Lewistown Airport. Cost to preregister is \$25 and \$50 on site. Novartis is helping defray the cost. With your registration you will receive two strings in a kit so that you will be able to run across them and bring to Lewistown. This will allow you to fine-tune quicker at the fly-in and help in case the wind comes up.

There will be a briefing the evening before at the Yogo Inn to discuss all fly-in information as well as topics to improve your pattern. Vendors will be present to sell nozzles and other equipment. The State Department of Agriculture will give recertification points for this fly-in.

Please let us know if you will be attending as soon as possible so a kit can be ordered for your use. A block of rooms is reserved at the Yogo Inn (406)538-8721. Mention you are with the fly-in to receive the special rate.

Please call Dan French (406)423-5567 or Ron Rowland (406)737-4205 if you have questions. Mail preregistration fees to AMAA, ATTN: Shelley Peterson, RR 1, Box 11, Joliet, MT 59041.

Calendar

April 12 – 13 – AMAA Fly-in Spray Check, Lewistown Airport.

April 18 – Wings Meeting, Stall/Spin Accidents by Jim Cooney, FSDO, Air National Guard Training Facility, Gore Hill, 7:00 pm.

April 18 – Pilot Safety Meeting, 7:00 pm, Central School, Roundup. Call Orville Moore (406)323-1011.

April 19 – 20 – FAA Northwest Mountain Region Airports Conference, Cavanaugh's on Fifth Avenue, Seattle, WA.

May 6 – 7 – Poly-fiber seminar, Dillon Airport. Contact Jim at (406)683-9302 or 683-4174.

May 27 – 29 – Benchmark Annual Work Session.

June 3 – Miles City Fly-in, Miles City Airport.

June 10 – 11 – Meadow Creek Work Session.

June 14 – 16 – The Revolution in General Aviation, Corvallis, Oregon. Contact Bill Wilkins at bwilkins@orst.edu (541)737-7487 or Ann Crook at ann.b.crook@odot.state.or.us (800)874-0102.

June 15 – 17 – Montana Antique Airplane Association (MAAA) Annual Air Tour. Contact Roy Hollandsworth at (406)627-2446 or Charlie Inman at (406)265-4757.

July 14 – 16 – Schafer Meadows Annual Work Session.

July 14 – 16 – Seeley Lake Fly-in.

July 19 – 23 – International Flying Farmer Convention, Sheraton Inn, Billings. Call Marilyn or Jim Lewis at (406)538-9739.

July 22 – 23 – United States Air and Trade Show, Dayton International Airport, Dayton, OH, www.usats.org

July 26 – August 1 – Experimental Aircraft Association AirVenture, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

July 29 – 30 – Big Sky International Airshow, Billings.

August 26 – Second Annual Fly-in Polson Airport. Call Tom Seabase 883-9392 or aerowork@digisys.net.

September 2 – 4 – Cleveland National Air Show, Burke Lakefront Airport, Cleveland, OH, www.clevelandairshow.com.

September 9 – 10 – South Central Hangar Club Fall Fly-in, Laurel Airport.

September 9 – 13 – NASAO 69th Annual Convention and Trade Show, Long Beach, CA.

September 16 – 17 – Oregon Air Fair 2000, Albany Fairgrounds. Info: NW Aviation Association (800)547-6922.

October 10 – 12 – National Business Aviation Association 53rd Annual Meeting & Convention, New Orleans, LA.

Pilot Safety Meeting

Where: Roundup, MT, at Central School in the multi-purpose room

When: Tuesday, April 18, 2000, at 7:00 PM

Speaker: Jerry Cockrell- Aviation psychologist and humorist. Jerry has conducted cockpit resource management courses for many airlines, military and corporate flight operations.

For further information: Contact Orville Moore at (406)323-1011

Montana Aviation Conference 2000



Tim McGinnis, Billings Conference Committee Chairman welcomed participants to the 2000 aviation conference during the kick-off lunch. Tim presented Brigadier General Steve Ritchie with a beautiful gift from Montana Silversmiths following his inspirational presentation.



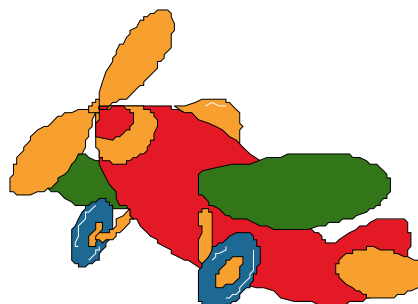
City of Billings Mayor Chuck Tooley (above) and Montana Department of Transportation Director Marv Dye gave welcoming remarks at Thursday's luncheon. Mayor Tooley thanked the aviation industry for choosing his community to serve as host to the 2000 Montana Aviation Conference. Director Dye congratulated those persons whom actively participated in the 1999 legislative session, securing funding for the Aeronautics Division. Both recognized the important role aviation plays to the state's economy and transportation structure.



The aviation conference is a time for old friends to gather and new friends be made. Peggy Booth, Fred Booth, John Rabenberg and Byron Bayers share a meal and conversation at the kick-off luncheon.



Michelle Fultz of Fort Benton was presented with the first annual Montana Antique Airplane Association (MAAA) scholarship by Wanda Rickman, MAAA secretary. The MAAA recognized Michelle for her outstanding achievements and aviation enthusiasm.





Every nook and cranny of the exhibit hall was filled with interesting people, products and services. Many thanks to the 60+ exhibitors who supported the aviation conference this year, the success of the conference is largely dependent on these companies. Pictured clockwise are: Tammy Yedinak, Aircraft Finishing Systems, Ennis, MT; Par Loennquist, Edmo Distributors Inc., Shingletown, CA—pictured with Par is Peg Lipscomb of Glasgow; Rich Broberg, Omaha Airplane Supply, Omaha, NE; and Tom Evans, Janet Apedaile and Jess Apedaile, Aviall, Broomfield, CO.



Brian Sprenger and Ted Mathis of the Gallatin Airport at Belgrade; Rick Griffith from Bert Mooney Airport at Butte and John Seymour of Johnson Bell Field in Missoula take a pause for the cause following the Montana Airport Management Association general meeting.



John Lord of AirSure of Golden, CO continues to conduct a little business while enjoying the Montana show. AirSure continues as a significant sponsor to the aviation conference each year.

DeVivo's Purchase Dillon Flying Service

Dennis and Jean DeVivo have recently purchased Dillon Flying Service from Guy Terrill. Dillon Flying Service is located at the Beaverhead County Airport, just north of Dillon. The full-service FBO specializes in all types of aviation maintenance, flight instruction and fuel and aviation merchandise sales.

Dennis and Jean have lived in the Dillon area for over 10 years. Dennis is a licensed pilot, A&P mechanic and flight instructor with close to 25 years of aviation experience.

Both Dennis and Jean are active in the Montana Pilots Association and previously held state offices as President and Secretary. Dennis is also an Experimental Aircraft Association Young Eagle Flight Leader.

Next time your travels bring you near Dillon be sure to stop in and wish Jean and Dennis well. Jean said the coffee pot is always on!

Congratulations and best of luck to Jean and Dennis!



Helena Regional Airport Runway 9-27 Construction Project

The Helena Regional Airport Authority together with its engineering firm, Morrison-Maierle, Inc. and the prime contractor, Maronick Construction have been working on a time-line for the runway line-of-sight project. The project is very complex and the time allocation for the runway closure extremely critical. Following is the schedule relative to the project:

March 20 - Stage A Construction Begins

- a. Runway 9 – Temporary Relocated Threshold, 2400 feet of runway closed, 6600 feet open
- b. Localizer and ILS shut down
- c. Runway 5-23 closed
- d. Taxiway G closed
- e. Taxiway D closed approximately 5 days
- f. Taxiway F to be converted to Runway 9L-27R

April 3 – Stage B Construction Begins

- a. Runway 5-23 opened & available for night time use
- b. Runway 9-27 closed (primary runway)
- c. Runway 9L-27R opened during tower operations only, M-F 7:00 am to 12:00 pm, Weekends 6:00 am to 10:00pm
- d. Localizer and ILS shut down
- e. Runway 16/34 closed

June 5 -

- a. Runway 9-27 opened
- b. Runway 9L-27R closed
- c. Runway 9L-27R to be converted Taxiway F
- d. Localizer and ILS back up

Runway 9L-27R Restrictions:

- a. Under 121 knots approach speeds
- b. 500' beyond end of Runway before North turn

AERO CHART PHOTO CONTEST

The Montana Aeronautics Division is in the process of updating our Montana Aeronautical Chart. The chart is published every four years, and is consecutive with the term of office for the governor.

The Division is looking for some fresh photos for the chart. We are hopeful that many of you may have some pictures you are willing to share with us for inclusion on the chart. The photos should depict scenes of aviation activity in Montana including recreation, work related, fly-ins, logging, fire fighting, aerial shots - anything that shows use of aircraft in typical Montana fashion. Rural and backcountry settings are a great idea for picturesque qualities.

The only catch is that we need colored 35mm slides - no prints. Slides provide a far superior end product due to the color separation process used in printing the chart. Please mark each slide with your name and address. We will keep all slides unless you specifically specify that you would like them returned. If you would like them returned, please indicate so. The top rated entries will be used as part of our aeronautical chart, and the photographer will receive credit for the photo on the chart and in our newsletter.

Due to the time constraint placed on us for new chart deliveries, we ask that you please have your photos to us no later than September 30th 2000. Send entries to:

**Montana Aeronautics Division
Attn: Aero Chart Revisions
P.O. Box 5178
Helena, MT 59604**

Be sure to adequately protect your slides when mailing. For more information, contact Jim Greil at 444-2506. Thanks!

REMINDER: AERONAUTICAL CHART REVISIONS

The Montana Aeronautics Division is currently in the process of updating it's Aeronautical Chart. The Division is dependent on you, to help us make the most accurate chart possible. If you notice any errors, omissions or corrections on our current chart, please let us know. Of particular interest to us is the status of private use airports on the chart. Since Montana has no regulations concerning the existence of private use airports, we rely on you to help keep us informed so we can make alterations to our chart. If you notice any airports listed on the chart which are no longer useable as airstrips, or you notice any airports in existence that are not on our chart, please let us know at your earliest convenience. For correction, comments or suggestions concerning the new chart, please send them to:

**Montana Aeronautics Division
Attn: Aero Chart Revisions
P.O. Box 5178
Helena, MT 59604**

or you can phone us at 406-444-2506 or fax us at 406-444-2519. Our new chart is published every four years with the next release due out this December. In order for us to have time to make the corrections, we must have all corrections submitted no later than September 30th 2000. Thanks!

Challenge Education with Aviation for Educators and High School Students

Montana Aeronautics Division, sponsors aviation education programs for Montana educators and high school students at the Montana Aviation Conference. This year, Frank Hughes, was the keynote speaker for "Challenge Education with Aviation". Frank recently retired from NASA, where he was the Chief of Space Flight Training, responsible for all shuttle and space station training. Doris Rotzoll, a meteorologist, in the Spaceflight Meteorology Group at NASA/Johnson Space Center, joined Frank as a speaker. Educators from Galata, Bozeman, Wolf Point, Lodge Grass, Billings, Park City, Kalispell, Geraldine, Hall, Helena, Cascade and Missoula were treated to new developments in space travel including resources to take back to their classrooms.

Aviation educators spend time together learning about aviation and space at the Montana Aviation Conference.



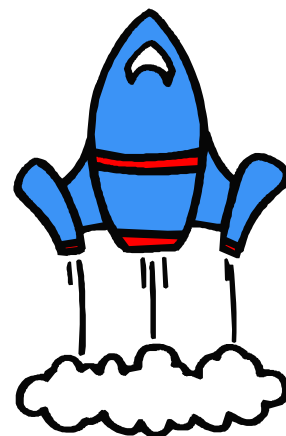
Thank you to all the sponsors that provided door prizes for the high school students, the list includes, Exec Air of Helena, Aerotronics of Billings, the Helena FAA, Montana Aeronautics, Montana Antique Association and Rich Broberg of Omaha Airplane Supply. Thank you to the conference committee for providing the snacks to the students.



Saturday, March 4th, the group of educators met at Lynch Flying Service. Steve Vold, of Aerotronics, gave a GPS demonstration and a nostalgic tour of Denny Lynch's "Always airplane", the Douglas A26. Len Wheeler of the Helena FAA offered the FAA's flight simulator for use in Montana's schools. Jeanne MacPherson, Amy Woody and Bob Kimpton did preflight and orientation flights with the teachers. The evaluations are back and the Montana teachers enjoyed, learned and have new ideas for teaching aviation/space to their student's!

In addition to the program for the teachers, Friday, March 3rd was planned for high school students that have an interest in aviation. An aviation career panel briefed students of the many opportunities and careers available in aviation/space today. Dave Kimball of Rocky Mountain College, Dave Harpster of Helena College of Technology, Patty Mitchell of United Airlines, Lee Ford, a corporate pilot, Trace Thomas, a military pilot, Doris Rotzoll, meteorologist and Frank Hughes of NASA, all talked about their jobs.

Junior high and high school students listen to the Aviation Careers Panel at the high school aviation careers presentation.



Montana Conference/Teacher Workshop. Doris Rotzoll, lead meteorologist at NASA for the space shuttle mission landings, Darla Torix teacher, Galata, MT attending the workshop, Frank Hughes, retired NASA Chief of Space Flight, Mary Fenger, teacher, Galata, MT.

Byron Celebrates 10K/70

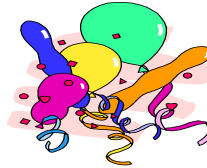


Aeronautics Board Vice-Chairman recently celebrated his 70th birthday and 10,000 hours flying time. The celebration was a grand affair with family and friends from near and far joining in on the event. Many humorous presents and stores were presented and shared. Great food and beverages were enjoyed by all. Byron was a good sport and everyone had a fun-filled evening. On behalf of the Aeronautics Board and Division we want to congratulate Byron and wish him many more years of safe and fun flying.

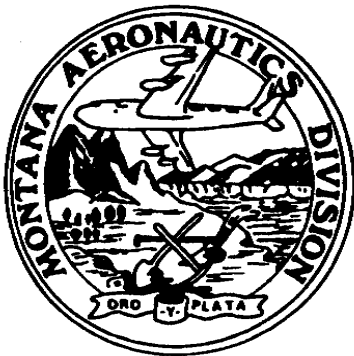
ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN CONTINUED.....

Subcommittee. Boyer stated "The Administration wants to impose \$1 billion in new aviation user fees next year alone. When will President Clinton get the message? Since this Administration came into office, Congress has emphatically told it 'no user fees' five times!" The Clinton proposal would collect some \$9 billion in user fees by 2005, and it would eliminate the historic General Fund contribution to the FAA operations which supports government and military use of FAA services, and FAA's regulatory, safety and security functions that benefit all citizens. Of course with the recent passage of the FAA reauthorization bill (Air 21), the Administration has again been "shot down" (for now) on their USER FEE proposals but it seems they will never give up.

Twenty nine hundred copies of this public document were produced at an estimated cost of 39 cents each, for a total cost of \$1,123. This includes \$120 for production, \$783 for postage and \$220 for printing.



The Department of Transportation attempts to provide reasonable accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person participating in any service, program or activity of the Department. Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided upon request. For further information call 406-444-2506 or TDD 406-444-7696.



MARCH 2000



**Bulk Rate
Postage Paid at
Helena, MT 59620
Permit No. 141**

PO Box 5178
Helena, Montana 59604-5178